



## Gaza Health Cluster Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Thursday 5 September, 2019

**Time:** 10:00 PM-12:00 PM

**Venue:** PMRS Meeting Room

**Chair:** Abdelnaser Soboh, Health sub-Cluster Coordinator (HsCC).

**Participants:** 35 participants representing 25 organizations (refer to annex 1).

### Meeting Agenda

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| Health Humanitarian update   |
| Presenting the final Health HNO  |
| The new Health Cluster Partners Activities Reporting Platform (PARP)   |
| Update on the new Humanitarian Allocation Fund   |
| AOB and Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update on the limb reconstruction work in Gaza</li><li>• Mental Health referrals to Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP)</li></ul> |

# Meeting Highlights

## 1. Health Humanitarian update

### Casualties:

- From 30 March until 30 August 2019, a total of 316 people have been killed<sup>1</sup>. The total figure of people injured stands at 31,338<sup>2</sup>. Out of 31,338 people injured, 15,588 were treated at the TSPs and discharged. This has reduced the burden of casualties arriving at the hospitals by an average of 46%. The remaining 18,549 casualties arrived at the emergency departments (ED) of MoH and NGO hospitals. Of them, 4,024 were children and 1221 females.

**Gunshot injuries:** Out of 18,549 casualties that arrived to emergency departments (ED), 7,545 cases were gunshot injuries; which account for 41% of the total casualties arriving at the hospitals. From 7,545 gunshot injuries, 87% are limb gunshot injuries.

- Estimated 1200 gunshot injuries are in need for limb reconstruction management.

### Drugs and medical supplies

- According to the MoH, almost 50% out of the essential medications, were reported at less than one-month supply at the MoH Central Drug Store (CDS) affecting negatively the health service delivery at both primary and secondary level.
- MoH calls for support in fulfilling the gaps in drugs, disposables and laboratory reagents shortages. Specially kidney drugs, chemotherapy, and PHC drugs.
- Alarming increase in anaemia among pregnant and lactating women due to the shortages of Iron and folic acid, which contributes to the fatal consequences of rising the number of maternal mortality. According to an ongoing PNIPH study, 70% of maternal mortality in women of age 20 to 30 years old found to have anaemia, and newly emerging observation that 4 mortality cases were at the antenatal phase. UNFPA to continue to contribute a dedicated section on SRH in the Sit Reps.
- PNGO in coordination with NGO hospitals is conducting an assessment of the shortages of drugs and disposables in the NGO hospitals, and will share the results once completed.
- Partners raised concern about the delay of getting their supplies of drugs and disposables to Gaza, particularly since the MoH in Ramallah insisted on directing the supply to CDS in Nablus before being sent to Gaza. INGOs asked for the intervention of WHO and OCHA in solving this issue with the MoH – Ramallah.

### Electricity

- Nine out of the 14 public hospitals, including Al Shifa, Indonesia, Al Aqsa, Nasser, Al Dora, Ophthalmic Hospital, Paediatric, Psychiatric, Specialized Paediatric Hospital connected to more than one grid line. These hospitals now have access to up to 22 hours of electricity every day.
- 55,000 Litter available in all MoH hospitals on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September, which pose risk on some of them if electricity cut-off hours increased for any reason.

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<sup>1</sup> Out of 11 bodies reported by OCHA to be held the Israeli authorities, 4 have been reported by MoH.

<sup>2</sup> Although the MoH report 34,137 injured, WHO was able to verify 31,338.

- 17 NGO hospitals and health facilities used to be supported with humanitarian fuel are currently relying on their own resources in providing fuel for their generators, such measures can raise the service fees for the patients.

### Gaza MoH employees

- The Salaries of MoH staff at the MoH – Gaza are still a major concern, as all health workers receive very low salaries, out of the total 10,492 employees, 58% are paid by the de-facto government in Gaza and 42% by PA- Ramallah, and both are receiving almost 60% of their monthly salaries. This affect negatively the productivity and quality of delivered services.
- There is also concern on the leaving doctors and nurses outside Gaza to other countries, especially those with high skills, as it is difficult to replace them, the preliminary data estimates 104 staff have already left their job since the beginning of 2018 migrating outside of Gaza. Exact figure will be provided by MoH very soon, and the Health Cluster Team will update the Cluster Partners on this issue next Cluster meeting.

| Action points  | Person/organization responsible | Deadline                    |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Health Cluster to issue updated Situation report           | Health Cluster Team             | 15 September 2019           |
| Assessment of drugs shortages at NGOs Hospitals            | PNGO                            | Next Health Cluster Meeting |
| Update on MoH Staffing including those who left their job. | Health Cluster Team             | Next Health Cluster Meeting |

## 2. Presenting the final Health Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)

- HsCC distributed a copy of the final [HNO/HRP matrix](#) to the partners, the matrix is the compilation of the health cluster partner's inputs during the HNO/HRP workshops conducted in Gaza on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July.
- The matrix can be used by partners as a guide for their future projects to decide on targets and activities.
- The final HNO narrative can be found [here](#).

## 3. The new Health Cluster Partners Activities Reporting Platform (PARP)

- Mohammed Marouf (IMO) introduced a new information tool that was developed by the health cluster, the tool is new collaborative platform that will be used by partners to report on their activities and share their contact details in addition to other useful functions.
- The tool will unify communication between the cluster team and partners and will replace the 4Ws and all the ad hoc communication methods to get partners inputs and feedback.
- The health cluster will organize a training on how to use the tool for the partner organizations' focal points.

| Action points  | Person/organization responsible | Deadline          |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Health Cluster Partners Activities Reporting Platform training | Health Cluster Team             | 12 September 2019 |

## 4. Update on the new Humanitarian Allocation Fund

- The HsCC explained the areas of the Health Cluster coverage at the new Allocation Fund, and the time frame of submitting the projects which will be from 1 – 15 September 2019.
- The full oPt Allocation Strategy Paper can be found [here](#).
- Partners requested further guidance on how to submit good quality proposals. Health Cluster to develop a guideline package for the standard allocation.

| Action points   | Person/organization responsible | Deadline          |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Develop a guideline package for the standard allocation | Health Cluster Team             | 15 September 2019 |

## 5. AOB

- **Update on the limb reconstruction work in Gaza**
  - MoH highlighted that their LR team has assessed 899 injured patients so far, and already identified more than 500 cases in need for LR surgeries. The remaining patients are still under assessment, and MoH will share the results of their LR cases assessment by the end of the month once completed.
  - MoH also explained that MSF – France will start the work on the newly established Osteomyelitis 16 bedded Unit at Nasser Hospital – Khanyounis. The Unit will include 3 Operation Theatres, and will complement the work of the future LR 40 bedded Unit that is supported by WHO in the same hospital.
  - MoH explained that they are working closely with WHO to develop LR guidelines for NGOs that wish to work in this domain, and they will share the waiting list of LR cases, so partners can select cases that fit their capacities.
  - MoH explained that the Nasser Unit for Limb reconstruction will be a critical unit in serving complex limb reconstruction and that EMTs will be directed to work there. WHO explained that given the high needs stated, we must ensure a high bed occupancy rate at the new unit. MoH agreed that the 40 beds will be utilised.
  - Currently, the Osteomyelitis laboratory is located at Rantisi (Pediatric Specialised Hospital), and will serve all Gaza. MoH have a plan to establish another lab for the southern area soon. Update on the work of both the LR and Osteomyelitis Units will be provided to Cluster Partners by next cluster meeting.
- **Mental Health referrals to GCMHP**
  - The representative of GCMHP explained their work in the 5 Community Mental Health Centers, and encouraged Partners to refer mental cases to these centres. Also, participating partners encouraged GCMHP to coordinate directly with agencies that provide Psychosocial support, that may also identify mental health cases.
  - Participants encouraged GCMHP to share contact details of their referral destinations at each district.

| Action points  | Person/organization responsible | Deadline                    |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Update on the newly established LR and Osteomyelitis Units at Nasser Hospital – Khanyounis, and share LR guidelines. | MoH- ICD                        | Next Health Cluster Meeting |
| Share the contact details of the referral destinations of the Community Mental Health Centres.                       | GCMHP                           | ASAP                        |

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## Annex 1: Participants

| No. | Organization      |
|-----|-------------------|
| 1   | AHH               |
| 2   | Baitona           |
| 3   | CBBS              |
| 4   | CCP-JAPAN         |
| 5   | DCA               |
| 6   | El Wafa Hospital  |
| 7   | GCMHP             |
| 8   | HI                |
| 9   | Human Appeal      |
| 10  | IOCC              |
| 11  | IRPAL             |
| 12  | MAP               |
| 13  | MDM-F             |
| 14  | MDM-S             |
| 15  | MOH               |
| 16  | PNGO              |
| 17  | QRC               |
| 18  | QRCS              |
| 19  | RCS4GS            |
| 20  | Save The Children |
| 21  | UHCC              |
| 22  | UHCW              |
| 23  | UNFPA             |
| 24  | UNRWA             |
| 25  | WHO               |